

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup ~~means for picking~~ device which picks up an
image of an object to be recorded;

an operation ~~means for operating an image pickup timing unit~~
which controls said image pickup device for image picking up the object
~~to be recorded~~, said operating means having a first operation and a second
operation; and

a white balance control ~~means~~ unit, having a first information
acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance ~~in~~
~~accordance with first~~ before said second operation by said operation
~~means~~ unit and executing an image pickup operation of said image pickup
~~means~~ device in accordance with said second operation of said operation
unit at a timing after said ~~the~~ first operation ~~timing~~, and a second
information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white
balance in accordance with ~~the~~ said second operation, ~~for controlling~~
wherein said white balance control unit controls white balance of an image
picked up in accordance with ~~the~~ said second operation on operation, on
the basis of the information about white balance ~~which are~~ obtained in ~~the~~
said first and said second modes information acquisition operations.

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2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~
~~said apparatus further comprises~~ comprising a display means for
displaying unit which displays an image picked up by said image pickup
~~means device~~, said white balance control ~~means unit~~ controls white
balance of the image displayed by said display ~~means unit~~, and the
information about white balance ~~which is~~ acquired in the first information
acquisition mode uses information about the white balance of the image
displayed by said display ~~means unit~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said white balance control ~~means unit~~ computes information about white
balance in the first information acquisition mode on the basis of ~~the an~~
image picked up by said image pickup ~~means device~~ at the first operation
timing.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
said white balance control ~~means unit~~ uses information about white
balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed
by said display ~~means unit~~ at the first operation ~~timing~~, as information
about white balance in the first information acquisition mode.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said white balance control ~~means unit~~ acquires information about white

balance in the second information acquisition mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a strobe ~~means for illuminating~~ unit which illuminates an object;

and

a storage ~~means storing~~ unit which stores information about white balance when said strobe ~~means~~ unit illuminates the object, wherein said white balance control ~~means~~ unit computes information about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and information about white balance stored in said storage ~~means~~ unit, when said white balance control ~~means~~ unit causes said strobe ~~means~~ unit to illuminate the object in the first information acquisition mode.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said white balance control ~~means~~ unit controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and information about white balance stored in said storage

~~means unit~~, when said white balance control ~~means unit~~ causes said strobe
~~means unit~~ to illuminate the object in the first information acquisition
mode.

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8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
said white balance control ~~means unit~~ controls white balance of the image
picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of
information about white balance acquired in the second information
acquisition mode information about white balance stored in said storage
~~means unit~~, when said white balance control ~~means unit~~ causes said strobe
~~means unit~~ to illuminate the object in the second information acquisition
mode.

9. (Currently Amended) An image pickup method comprising:
an image pickup step for picking up an image of an object to be
recorded;
an operation step of operating an image pickup ~~timing for image~~
~~picking up~~ controlling image pickup of the object to be recorded; and
a control step, having a first information acquisition mode of
acquiring information about white balance ~~in accordance with first~~ before
a second operation in said operation step and executing an image pickup
operation in the image pickup step in accordance with said second
operation in said operation step at a timing after ~~the~~ a first operation

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~~timing~~ in said operation step, and a second information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with ~~the~~ said second operation in said operation step, ~~of controlling~~ wherein said control step controls white balance of an image picked up in accordance with ~~the~~ said second ~~operation on~~ operation, on the basis of the information about white balance ~~which are~~ obtained in the first and second ~~modes~~ information acquisition operations.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising a display step of displaying an image picked up in the image pickup step, wherein said control step controls white balance of the displayed image, and the information about white balance ~~which is~~ acquired in the first information acquisition mode uses information about the white balance of the image displayed in said display step.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said control step computes information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode on the basis of ~~the~~ an image picked up in the image pickup step at the first operation ~~timing~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein said control step uses information about white balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed in said display step at the

first operation timing, as information about white balance in the first
information acquisition mode.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said
control step acquires information about white balance in the second
information acquisition mode on the basis of the image picked up in
accordance with the second operation.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further
comprising:

an illumination step of illuminating an object;

a storing step of storing information about white balance when the
object is illuminated in said illumination step; and

wherein said control step computes information about white balance of the
image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white
balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of
information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first
operation and stored information about white balance, when the object is
illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition
mode.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein
said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in

accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition mode.

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16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second information acquisition mode and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the second information acquisition mode.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for computer-readable storing a program for executing an image pickup method, the image pickup method comprising:

an image pickup step for picking up an image of an object to be recorded;

an operation step of ~~operating an image pickup timing for~~ controlling image picking up pickup of the object to be recorded; and

a control step, having a first information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance ~~in accordance with first before~~ a second operation in said operation step and executing an image pickup

operation in the image pickup step in accordance with said second operation in said operation step at a timing after ~~the first operation timing~~ said first operation in said operation step, and a second information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with ~~the~~ said second operation in said operation step, ~~for controlling~~ wherein said control step controls white balance of an image picked up in accordance with ~~the~~ said second ~~operation on the basis~~ operation, on the basis of the information about white balance ~~which are~~ obtained in the first and second ~~modes~~ information acquisition operations.

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18. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprising a display step of displaying an image picked up in said image pickup step, said control step controls white balance of the displayed image, and the information about white balance ~~which is~~ acquired in the first information acquisition mode uses information about the white balance of the image displayed by said display step.

19. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein said control step computes information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode on the basis of ~~the~~ an image picked up in the image pickup means at the first operation ~~timing~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein said control step uses information about white balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed in the display step at the first operation timing, as information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode.

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21. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 17, wherein said control step acquires information about white balance in the second information acquisition mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

22. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprising:

an illumination step of illuminating an object;

a storing step of storing information about white balance when the object is illuminated in said illumination step; and

computing information about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition mode.

23. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 22, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition mode.

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24. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 22, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second information acquisition mode and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the second information acquisition mode.

25. (New) An image pickup apparatus comprising:
an image pickup device which picks up an image of an object;
a display unit which displays the image picked up by said image pickup device; and
a white balance control unit which performs white balance processing on the image,
wherein the white balance processing performed by said white balance control unit is switched in accordance with on and off of said display unit.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a
strobe unit which illuminates the object, wherein the white balance
processing performed by said white balance control unit is switched in
accordance with on and off of said strobe unit.

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